



VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

Report to the Joint Leadership Council May 12, 2022

The Virginia Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees held their quarterly meeting on March 24, 2022 on the Chester Campus of the John Tyler Community College.

Deputy Secretary Jason Pak and Assistant Secretary Jordan Stewart attended the meeting on behalf of Secretary Craig Crenshaw. Deputy Secretary Pak gave regrets from Secretary Crenshaw for his absence. The Deputy Secretary expressed his excitement to have the opportunity to work with VSF and DVS to support Virginia veterans and their families. The Deputy Secretary acknowledged that much has been accomplished, and added there is also an opportunity for growth. The Secretary's office is eager to listen and understand the landscape and learn more about the issues.

Deputy Secretary Pak presented a Women Veteran Pin to the women veterans who serve on the VSF Board of Trustees in recognition of their military service and their time and talents in leadership roles to the Foundation. In the Commonwealth, the third week of March is designated Virginia Women Veterans Week and coincides with the month-long celebration in March of Women's History Month,

Steve Schoenfeld, Executive Director of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic made a presentation regarding the event and Mr. Schoenfeld stated his appreciation for the relationship with VSF and the work that has taken place to benefit the veteran community. VSF is one of the event's beneficiary and has received funding since 2016. Mr. Schoenfeld announced that VSF will once again be a beneficiary this year and he looks forward to working with VSF.

Commissioner Gade provided the DVS report and shared that he will work hand in glove with the VSF, as they are vital to the work of DVS. His number one priority is making the vertical relationship with the Veterans Administration (VA) and the horizontal relationship with constituents, legislators, and VSF mature to create high quality programs. Both DVS and VSF recognize that a strong collaboration will result in successfully identifying veterans along with providing the resources needed now and in the future.

A tripartite meeting that included the Development, Finance and Procedures and Policies Committees took place on February 24, 2022. Committee Chairs, Laura Schmiegel, Walter Stosch and Jack Lanier worked together to combine the efforts of each committee to discuss various matters important to VSF.

The Development Committee continues their work on fundraising and exploring the different path of giving to secure the funding necessary to support DVS programs and the needs of Virginia veterans.

The Finance Committee made recommendations to the Board to approve Commissioner's Gade requests to purchase carillons for each of the Veterans Cemeteries and recliners and TVs for the short term rehab wing at VVCC. Both requests were approved by the Board.

The P&P Committee finished their work on the FY 22 - FY23 P&P work plan.

VSF Chair, John Lesinski recommended for approval of the Board the names of Trustees, Lettie Bien, Allan Burke and Walter Stosch to serve on the 2022 nominating committee. Elections for VSF officers will take place at the June 9, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting.

A number of Community Fundraising events are currently being held. The return of these fundraisers is a welcome return for VSF. These events are essential for increasing funding and an excellent avenue for providing outreach opportunities throughout the Commonwealth.

VSF received a total of \$182,000 in March bringing the FY22 donation total to \$562,000. The March revenue included the generous support of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic along with two bequests that were made to VSF.

The next VSF Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2022 at 11:00 AM. The location is TBD.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Lesinski, Chairman
Virginia Veterans Services Foundation